PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

Translation INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

| Applicant's or agent's file r | eference | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| H2071-01 | | FOR FURTHER ACTION | | See Form PCT/IPEA/416 | | | | |
| International application No. | | nternational filing date | (day/month/year) | Priority date (day/month/year) | | | | |
| PCT/JP2004/004471 | | 29.03.2004 | | 31.03.2003 | | | | |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC | | | | | | | | |
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| Applicant | | | | | | | | |
| MATSUSHITA | ELECTRIC IN | NDUSTRIAL C | O., LTD. | | | | | |
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| This report is the under Article 35 | e international preliminand transmitted to the | nary examination repor applicant according to A | t, established by this In Article 36. | nternational Preliminary Examining Authority | | | | |
| 2. This REPORT co | onsists of a total of 3 | } | sheets, including | this cover sheet. | | | | |
| 3. This report is als | o accompanied by AN | NEXES, comprising: | | | | | | |
| a. (sent | to the applicant and to | the International Bure | au) a total of 2 | sheets, as follows: | | | | |
| l 🙀 | | | • | nended and are the basis for this report and/or | | | | |
| | sheets containing recti Instructions). | fications authorized by | this Authority (see Rule | e 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative | | | | |
| | sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental | | | | | | | |
| | Box. | | | | | | | |
| b (sent | to the International Bi | ureau only) a total of (in | dicate type and number | of electronic carrier(s)) | | | | |
| | | | | , containing a sequence listing and/or tables | | | | |
| | thereto, in computer range 1802 of the Administra | | ndicated in the Supplen | nental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see | | | | |
| 4. This report conta | nins indications relating | to the following items: | | | | | | |
| Box No. | I Basis of the re | eport | | | | | | |
| Box No. | II Priority | | | | | | | |
| Box No. | III Non-establish | ment of opinion with re | with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability | | | | | |
| Box No. | Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention | | | | | | | |
| Box No. | | | | | | | | |
| | | explanations supporting | | | | | | |
| Box No. | Box No. VI Certain documents cited | | | | | | | |
| Box No. | VII Certain defec | ts in the international ap | pplication | | | | | |
| Box No. | Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application | | | | | | | |
| Date of submission of the | demand | Date of completion of thi | s report | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP | | | authorized officer | | | | | |
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| Facsimile No. | | T | elephone No. | | | | | |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/004471

| Box | No. I | Basis of the report | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | | regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise tted under this item. | | | | | |
| | | This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of: | | | | | |
| | | international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)) | | | | | |
| | | publication of the international application (Rule 12.4) | | | | | |
| | (| international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3) | | | | | |
| 2. | With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report): | | | | | | |
| | | the international application as originally filed/furnished | | | | | |
| | M | the description: | | | | | |
| | | pages 1-11 as originally filed/furnished | | | | | |
| | | pages* received by this Authority on | | | | | |
| | | pages* received by this Authority on | | | | | |
| | \boxtimes | the claims: | | | | | |
| | | nos. 2-7 as originally filed/furnished | | | | | |
| | | nos.* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19 | | | | | |
| | | nos.* 1,8 received by this Authority on 16.09.2004 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | nos.* received by this Authority on | | | | | |
| | | the drawings: | | | | | |
| | | sheets 1-4 as originally filed/furnished | | | | | |
| | | sheets* received by this Authority on | | | | | |
| | | sheets* received by this Authority on | | | | | |
| | | a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing. | | | | | |
| 3. | | The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: | | | | | |
| | | the description, pages | | | | | |
| | | the claims, nos. | | | | | |
| | | the drawings, sheets/figs | | | | | |
| | | the sequence listing (specify): | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 4. | | any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since | | | | | |
| " | Ш | they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)). | | | | | |
| | | the description, pages | | | | | |
| | | the claims, nos. | | | | | |
| | | the drawings, sheets/figs | | | | | |
| | | the sequence listing (specify): | | | | | |
| | | any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): | | | | | |
| L. | If ite | em 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded." | | | | | |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/004471

| Box No. V Reasoned statement under a citations and explanations s | | | ticle 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; porting such statement | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------|--|-----|
| 1. | Statement | | | |
| | Novelty (N) | Claims | 1-8 | YES |
| | | Claims | | NO |
| | Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 1-8 | YES |
| | | Claims | | NO |
| | Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1-8 | YES |
| | | Claims | | NO |
| | | - | | |

- 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)
 - Document 1: JP 5-344974 A (Fujitsu Ltd.), 27 December 1993, entire text and all drawings & US 5313950 A
 - Document 2: JP 5-23342 A (Matsushita Electric Ind. Co., Ltd.), 02 February 1993, entire text and all drawings (Family: none)
 - Document 3: JP 2001-327500 A (Aloka Co., Ltd.), 27

 November 2001, entire text and all drawings

 (Family: none)
 - Document 4: JP 2002-301081 A (Matsushita Electric Ind.

 Co., Ltd.), 15 October 2002, entire text and all drawings (Family: none)

Claims 1 to 8

The inventions that are set forth in claims 1 to 8 are not disclosed or suggested in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report or in any of the documents that are presented above.